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28 Sept 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Final Disposition of the JUANITA

REFERENCE: (a) Memo for Chief, EE from OD/OP/Commo, dated 27 September 1951, Subject: BGSPEED transmitter, Medium Wave.

(b) Memo for Chief, EE/OPC from Assistant Director for Communications dated 10 September 1951, Subject: Project BGSPEED, EE-10.1.

(c) Memo for DD(Plans) Via ADPC from Chief, EE, dated 24 August 1951, Subject: [] (IN 20146) Subproject BGSPEED.

(d) Memo for Chief, Communications Division from Chief, EE dated 20 August 1951, Subject: Project BGSPEED, EE-10.1.

(e) Dispatch 711-CAGWU, dated 23 August 1951, Subject: KMHYMNAL.

(f) [] (IN 20146) dated 9 August 1951, Subject: KMHYMNAL/BGSPEED

(g) Memo from Chief, EE-I to PSD/SSS dated 27 June 1950, Subject: Purchase of Vessel Under OPC Project BGFIEND

(h) Memo submitted by [] and [] to Chief, Foreign Branch E, Area I dated 26 May 1950, Subject: Project BGFIEND - Survey of proposed propaganda vessels - yachts, IRMAY and SERVA IE BARI.

(i) Memo with sub references from [] to ADPC Via EE/OPC dated 7 June 1951, Subject: Technical Fitness of BGFIEND Installation.

1. The JUANITA was purchased by EE-1 to be a floating carrier of transmitting equipment for medium wave propaganda broadcasts into Albania. It was intended that she cruise the waters of the Ionian or Adriatic Seas, beaming her broadcasts into the target according to a program schedule, returning to her home base at Patras for fuel, water, and food. At the time of the purchase there was no certainty that permission would be granted by any country for the conduct of Albanian black propaganda broadcasts from its territory. Consequently, it was decided that such broadcasts would have to be conducted from the high seas and that the vessel obtained for this role would, therefore, have to be sufficiently seaworthy for open sea operations. The selection of the broadcasting equipment and the vessel for this purpose was based on the best technical advice

available at the

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available at the time of purchase.

2. The JUANITA has now undergone ten months of cruising including an Atlantic crossing and extensive broadcast testing in the eastern Mediterranean area. The following conclusions have been drawn on the basis of this experience:

a. The broadcasting equipment is incapable of performing its task in the area. This problem is treated by OD/OP/Commo in reference (a).

b. Although the vessel would have been capable of carrying out her mission had it not been for the inadequacy of the broadcasting equipment, she has the following serious limitations:

(1) Because of factors inherent in her design, the vessel rolls and pitches excessively. This characteristic made the operation of her radio equipment difficult and hazardous to the radio operators. The possible entrance of water into the transmitting cabin threatened commo personnel with electrocution. The limited space and lack of ventilation in this cabin combined with the motion of the vessel was conducive to seasickness.

(2) Rigging and handrails became electrified during transmission, endangering the lives of all men topside.

(3) The electric generators are inadequate to service both the needs of the vessel and the communications equipment. Furthermore, the vessel's electric wiring is not of a marine type, and has caused repeated fires.

3. At the present time the JUANITA is lying in the harbor at Piraeus in need of extensive repairs. Both of the vessel's engines require overhauling, dry rot has developed in the galley deck, the water tanks have bad leaks and are not properly secured, and the ground tackle winch is only partially operative. Repairs would cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000, and would require two months' time.

4. Since the JUANITA is inoperative until repaired, and repairs required the removal of the radio equipment, all such equipment has been removed.

5. Because of the

5. Because of the demonstrated inadequacy of the broadcasting equipment and the inherent limitations and present condition of the vessel, this Division recommends the discontinuation of project BGSPEED.

6. A careful study of the maritime requirements of the OPC [] in Greece reveals that they can not be met by the M/V JUANITA. Her slow speed (maximum of 8.5 knots), coupled with her conspicuous appearance, render her unsuitable for any other conceivable missions, i.e. infiltration, exfiltration, evacuation or transport of supplies.

7. In view of paragraph 6 above, it is further recommended that the vessel be offered to the other OPC line divisions. If it is determined that there is no feasible use for her anywhere in OPC, permission is requested for the sale of the JUANITA in the field according to the discretion

Chief, EE

ADDENDUM:

Attachment J: "Estimate of Total BGSPEED Expenditures To Date"

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ESTIMATE OF TOTAL BGSPEED EXPENDITURES TO DATE

10/1/51

DEBITS:

Cost of Vessel

Cost of Conversion & Transfer

Operating Expenses, Dec. - June

Operating Expenses, July - Oct. (estimate)

TOTAL DEBITS

CREDITS:

Refund on Charter (Returned to CIA)

Bank Balance

Letter of Credit in Bank of Greece

TOTAL CREDITS

NET EXPENDITURES

NOTE: Cost of Communications equipment (not charged to BGSPEED)

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(Attachment J)